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Moses Dawson Correspondence

University Archives and Special Collections

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1836

### Moses Dawson letter to David T. Disney

Moses Dawson

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your note of yesterday I have received and have  
read with mixed feelings of surprise and contempt —

At your consummate impudence I am not surprised  
as that is a quality for which you stand most  
distinguished — but for your abject manners in  
soliciting from one of whom you have been in habit  
of speaking and writing so contemptuously a favour for  
which you "would be extremely obliged" nothing but your  
grievous state would have convinced me

Your impudence and your manners can only  
be matched by your ineffable stupidity in for one  
moment supposing, that, steeped in shameless  
mendacity as you are, and conscious of that  
vicious spirit with which you have endeavored  
to destroy my character on ~~many occasions~~, I could  
have sufficient confidence in you to place in your  
hands those files of which I have but a single copy  
and in which is contained such a mass of evidence  
of your own political delinquency

Confident as I am, however, <sup>of the unfair advantage</sup> ~~that in those files~~  
you would take care I to give an absolute refusal I  
~~nothing can be found to aid you in the war you~~  
~~are inclined to a certain degree to comply with your agent~~  
~~are waging against my character~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~in the circle of~~  
your friends you have one <sup>files you mention</sup> ~~an~~ <sup>most</sup> ~~able~~ <sup>able</sup> man willing to  
take the trouble ~~they~~ <sup>shall</sup> be laid open to his  
inspection — ~~but~~ <sup>last I will not suffer them to have my profession — and</sup> I would as readily convey them  
to the flames as for one hour to ~~say~~ <sup>allow</sup> them to be placed  
in your keeping —



your note of yesterday I have received — your  
about memoirs — <sup>and</sup> ~~your~~ (or summarize) imprudence  
are in perfect keeping with your usual conduct  
~~and your~~ ~~inoffensive~~ ~~stupidity~~ ~~conduct~~ ~~is~~ ~~unconsciously~~  
surprising — I never saw a man who in the narrowest  
sense of the word — I ~~was~~ ~~am~~ ~~and~~ ~~all~~ perfectly charac-  
teristic of yourself — but that you should be so  
unusually stupid as for one moment to suppose  
that one you had so foully wronged ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> whom  
character you had laboured to <sup>and of whom you had spoken so</sup> destroy would <sup>would</sup> ~~not~~  
<sup>contemptuously</sup> to ~~give~~ any favour I ~~was~~ <sup>am</sup> not prepared for <sup>and</sup> am  
rather surprised at — What! entrust <sup>you</sup> with the files of my  
papers of which I have but a single copy — I would as  
readily consign them to the flames — and I believe with as  
regard to their safety might I witness their destruction as to entrust  
with one capable of such infamous conduct as have proved  
yourself towards me —

Copy to Dr. J. Quincy

1836